CLAIMS

1. An expandable tubing assembly comprising:

a tubular connector defining overlapping longitudinal slots and comprising an intermediate portion located between slotted end portions, the connector being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material in the intermediate portion where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap; and

lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots with nodes beyond the ends of the slots and having slotted end portions, the tubing being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap,

the connector end portions being coupled to the nodes of respective end portions of the tubing lengths and the deformable fingers of the sleeve being axially spaced from the end most deformable fingers of the respective tubing lengths.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the connector end portions and the nodes of the tubing end portions are threaded.

~~3. The assembly of claim 1 or 2 wherein the intermediate~~ portion is of corresponding configuration of the tubing lengths, such that the expansion characteristics of the

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connected tubing assembly are substantially constant over the connection.

4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the connector intermediate portion is of substantially the same wall thickness of the tubing and wherein the connector end portions are upset.

5. The assembly of claim 4 wherein each connector end portion defines an internal thread for engaging a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the respective tubing end portion.

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~~6. The assembly of any of the preceding claims wherein~~ the connector end portions define grooves ~~to receive~~ corresponding tongues provided on the tubing length end portions.

7. An arrangement for coupling lengths of expandable tubing, the arrangement comprising:

a sleeve defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

first and second tubing lengths defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap; and

connecting means for connecting the sleeve to the ends of the tubing lengths, ends of the tubing lengths being received by respective ends of the sleeve,

the deformable fingers of the sleeve being axially spaced from the end most deformable fingers of the respective tubing lengths.

8. The arrangement of claim 7, wherein the connecting means are provided at circumferentially spaced locations at the end of the tubing lengths beyond the end most tubing fingers, and at the ends of the sleeves beyond the respective end most tubing fingers.

9. The arrangement of claim 7 or 8, wherein the sleeve and the tubing lengths are each of substantially constant diameter along their length.

10. A method of coupling the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing and expanding the coupled tubing lengths, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

providing first and second lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

coupling the sleeve to the ends of first and second

lengths of expandable tubing such that the fingers of the sleeve are longitudinally spaced from the end most fingers of the tubing lengths; and

forcing an expansion member through the connected tubing lengths to expand the sleeve and the tubing lengths.

11. An arrangement for coupling lengths of expandable tubing, the arrangement comprising: a sleeve of longitudinally extending strips of metal; first and second tubing lengths defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap; and connecting means for connecting the sleeve to the ends of the tubing lengths.

12. The arrangement of claim 11, wherein the strips are rectilinear.

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~~13. The arrangement of claim 11 or 12, wherein the strips~~ are initially circumferentially ~~connected by frangible~~ links.

14. A method for coupling the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve comprising longitudinally extending

strips of material;

coupling the sleeve to the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing; and

forcing an expansion member through the connected tubing lengths to expand the sleeve and tubing lengths.

15. An expandable tubing assembly comprising:

a tubular connector defining overlapping longitudinal slots and comprising an intermediate portion between slotted upset end portions; and

lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and having slotted end portions defining nodes beyond the ends of the slots, the connector end portions being coupled to the nodes of respective end portions of the tubing lengths,

the connector intermediate portion being of substantially the same wall thickness as the tubing, such that the expansion characteristics of the connected tubing assembly are substantially constant over the connection.

add A'

Add B8

Add 4.)